

Research

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): If hon. members wish me to read further, I will do so.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: So that there will be no misunderstanding may I go over the different points again? Following this discussion we will have third reading of Bill C-251. We will then discuss items 93 and 100 on today's order paper. If there is time remaining we will consider items 79, 96, 104, 110 and 117. The house will sit after ten o'clock this evening with no time limit specified. Tomorrow the house will sit from six o'clock to ten o'clock. Does the house agree that it be so ordered?

This was agreed by the hon. members.

Mr. Lambert: There is nothing there which indicates that this bill should be taken through all its stages. The contention which my hon. friend from Kamloops is putting forward is eminently reasonable. If we gave second reading to this bill and proceeded further tomorrow, that would be agreeable. But I must protest against this inordinate haste in trying to put through a bill which has been brought into this house on the eve of this very day.

An hon. Member: Fourteen days at least.

Mr. Thompson: It was generally agreed and it was ultimately passed as an order of the house that after completing Bill No. C-251 we would proceed with Bill No. C-252 and Bill No. C-253. We spent between three and three and a half hours in a somewhat futile debate on Bill No. C-251 which took up most of our time tonight. Be that as it may, I think it is reasonable that we should accept the point of order which has been raised by the hon. member for Kamloops. After all, there are 19 clauses in this bill covering some 15 pages. We cannot do justice to it tonight, though I believe we are in general agreement as to the principle of the bill. So I support what the hon. member for Kamloops has just said, that we pass second reading and then adjourn for the day.

Mr. McIlraith: Mr. Speaker, I want to make one point clear. The order of the house tonight clearly provided that this bill should be passed. But in view of the obvious desire among members to discuss the bill in some detail and in view of the fact that other bills took longer than we anticipated, I would be quite agreeable, if it meets with the wishes of hon. members, to stop as soon as the second reading stage has been concluded. However, I would like to call a third reading item.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Fulton.]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it unanimously agreed that the order made previously tonight be rescinded?

Mr. McIlraith: No. The order stands. But we ask to proceed to the second reading of this bill at this moment—

Mr. Churchill: And stop there.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is the house unanimous?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, I find myself confused by the motion Your Honour has just put. I understood that a motion for the second reading of this bill had already been made.

Mr. McIlraith: We have just carried it.

Mr. Barnett: On a question of privilege, before all these points of order were raised I had been recognized by Your Honour as wishing to speak on the second reading of the bill. My understanding of the agreement—

Mr. Monteith: It was second reading which was being discussed.

Mr. Fulton: Would the hon. member permit me to make this point? I felt we should not agree to proceed with all stages of the bill tonight as we had apparently been asked to do, and I felt that as a compromise we might agree to second reading and let the bill stand there. We can make any further speeches in committee on the bill tomorrow. Nobody's position is compromised since anything we may want to say on second reading can, I think, be said in committee.

Mr. Barnett: With all deference to the hon. member for Kamloops, I had been recognized by the Chair and though I have no desire to make a lengthy speech I do wish to make a few remarks on the second reading of the bill. Certainly I was not a party to any agreement that second reading should be deemed to have been passed. The hon. member for Edmonton West made a speech on second reading. The Chair then recognized me. I assure hon. members I have no desire to make a long speech, but my understanding is that we will finish second reading and not proceed with the committee stage. Is that correct?

● (12:40 a.m.)

Mr. McIlraith: That is right.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it agreed that we consider this bill in committee of the whole at the next sitting of the house?